Transit Driver Appreciation Day

Observed every year on March 18, "Transit Driver Appreciation Day" marks the date of the start of the very first bus transit service: March 18, 1662 in Paris, France. While that service lasted only fifteen years, it was an idea ahead of its time, as today public transit is an essential service around the world, serving millions of Americans and residents of Los Angeles County.

In 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, public transit agencies across the United States provided nearly 25 million daily unlinked trips, which was more than eight times the number of daily airline passengers that year. And in the midst of what has been a historic pandemic, bus and rail operators risked their health and safety every day to ensure that those who depended on these critical services could still get to work, to school, to doctor's appointments, and to see loved ones.

In LA County, public transit ridership has been recovering, now with around one million trips every day across all services. Each of these trips is only possible because of transit drivers, who ensure all of these riders get to their destinations as safely and

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conveniently as possible. It is for these reasons that transit drivers deserve recognition, not just on Transit Driver Appreciation Day, but every day.

↓ <u>WE</u>, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim March 18, 2022 as "Transit Driver Appreciation Day."

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